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TAGS: US, PINT, PARM, XG
SUBJECT: AMERICAN PRESS COVERAGE
VIENNA AND GENEVA FOR MBFR AND CSCE
INFO FOR PAOS

1. HIGHLIGHTS. RECENT HEADLINES MAINLY DOMESTIC. TUESDAY PAPERS INSIDE REPORTED HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE CUT 2.8 BILLION FROM DEFENSE BUDGET, SLOWING PACE OF TRIDENT CONSTRUCTION AND OMITTING EXPERIMENTAL ABM SYSTEM WHICH CANNOT BE DEPLOYED UNDER SALT TREATY.
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1A. WEDNESDAY BALTSUN CORDDRY SAID HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE REVEALED IN ITS REPORT THAT NEW STUDIES CONDUCTED BY AIR FORCE AND DEFENSE DEPARTMENT'S NUCLEAR AGENCY MAINTAIN THAT SOVIET UNION, DESPITE ITS HUGE MISSILE BUILDUP, STILL IS INCAPABLE OF KNOCKING OUT AMERICA'S ICBMS AND THUS PRESUMABLY REMAINS DETERRED FROM NUCLEAR ATTACKS OR THREATS AGAINST US.

1B. THURSDAY NYTIMES BINDER WASHINGTON SAYS DIPLOMATS HAVE REPORTED THAT NINE COMMART COUNTRIES ARE SECRETLY DRAFTING A EUROPEAN IDENTITY PAPER TO BE ISSUED AS DECLARATION NEXT MONTH AT HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETING, AND A TOP US OFFICIAL SAID DRAFT IS AIMED TO SET OUT FUTURE OF COMMART AS

POLITICAL STRUCTURE AND ONE US OFFICIAL REMARKED AMERICA'S CALL FOR NEW ATLANTIC CHARTER HAS PRODUCED NEW EUROPEAN CHARTER INSTEAD.

2. COMMENT. WEDNESDAY JOSEPH ALSOP COLUMN ON US-SOVIET MISSILE GAP ASSERTS THE TALK OF SOVIET STRATEGIC PARITY WITH AMERICA IS PLAIN GARBAGE BECAUSE IN NUCLEAR-STRATEGIC WEAPONS SOVIETS ARE CURRENTLY ACQUIRING AN ENORMOUS LEAD OVER US VIA FIVE BRAND NEW MORE POWERFUL ICBMS AND SSN-8 WITH ITS 4,000 MILE RANGE WHICH ALLOWS NUCLEAR SUBS LYING IN PROTECTED AREAS LIKE BERING SEA TO LOB THEIR MISSILES AT ALMOST ANY MAJOR US TARGET WITH HAPPY IMPUNITY. ACCORDING ALSOP, ASSUMPTIONS OF SALT ONE WERE: RUSSIANS WOULDN'T HAVE A SEA-BASED MISSILE OF THAT RANGE, THAT WE HAD MIRVED OUR MISSILES WHEREAS SOVIETS FAILED, AND THIRDLY WE HAD GREATER ACCURACY. FIRST TWO ASSUMPTIONS ARE NOW CANCELED OUT AND ASSUMPTION ABOUT OUR ACCURACY IS MEANINGLESS SINCE IT IS CANCELED OUT BY THE VASTLY GREATER POWER OF SOVIET WARHEADS, SAYS ALSOP.

2A. THURSDAY NYTIMES OP-ED PAGE HAS WILLIAM SAFIRE FROM BRUSSELS SAYING NATO WILL NEVER BE SAME AFTER YOM KIPPUR WAR AND, ALTHOUGH EUROPEANS MAY LABORIOUSLY HELP US PAPER OVER RECENTLY-REVEALED DIFFERENCES, IT WOULD MAKE MORE SENSE TO INTRODUCE THE FEAR OF SUBSTANTIAL US

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TROOP WITHDRAWALS, NOW THAT SOVIETS FOR FIRST TIME IN YEARS ARE BEGINNING TO EXERT PRESSURE ON WEST EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS THROUGH LOCAL COMMUNIST PARTIES. BUT MOST SENSE OF ALL WOULD BE TO RECOGNIZE THAT NIXON-KISSINGER APPROACH OF SECRET NEGOTIATION AND STUNNING SURPRISE HAS SERVED ITS PURPOSE AND TIME IS COMING FOR TRAILBLAZING TO BE FOLLOWED BY TRUDGING. NATO CANNOT BE DEALT WITH DECISIVELY THE WAY A LEADERSHIP OF CHINA CAN, BUT WESTERN ALLIANCE IS WORTH THE INFINITE PATIENCE REQUIRED TO MAINTAIN IT SO US CAN LEAD IT AND OCCASIONALLY MANIPULATE IT. KISSINGER

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